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THE SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL RETURNS - ON FILM

SCREENINGS ONLINE AND IN PERSON IN OCTOBER; TICKETS ON SALE NOW

San Francisco, CA, August 31, 2021 – The critically acclaimed **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival** returns this October in a brand new format: **film**.

The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Film is an original, full-length production that was shot in various Bay Area locales this summer, and features local artists presenting dance, music, and spoken word from **Cuba, Guinea, Hawaii, India, Iran and Turkey, Mexico, and the US**. Four of the artists are making their Festival debuts.

The film **premieres on Thursday, October 7, 2021**, in a special interactive online event which will include live introductions by each of the artists featured in the film, and an opportunity for audience members to chat with them. The premiere will be followed by **in-person screenings in Oakland and San Francisco on October 9 and 16**; and the film will be available **on demand online** for a limited time in October. There will be **additional online events** leading up to the film premiere, including a panel discussion and a movement workshop. A full list of events can be found below, along with the list of artists featured. Tickets for the film are priced \$12-\$25 and are available online now at

worldartswest.org or by phone at **City Box Office: 415.392.4400**. See the Festival Film trailer at [bit.ly/EDFFILM 21](http://bit.ly/EDFFILM_21).

“Though we are closer to returning to live performance than we have been in a long time, we are not quite there yet. It takes a full year to prepare for our stage productions,” notes **Māhealani Uchiyama**, who is Festival Co-Artistic Director, along with **Latanya d. Tigner**. “That said, I am beyond excited for this film. My hope is that more people outside the Bay Area will have the opportunity to experience the extraordinary work of our artist community.”

San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival artists are typically selected through a live auditions process, but without that option in 2021, the artists in the film were selected by Tigner, Uchiyama, and Festival producers World Arts West, after careful consideration about the new opportunities presented by the film format versus a stage production. “We were also keen to include artists and traditions that may not have been involved in the Festival before,” Uchiyama explains. “Wanting to celebrate the incredible diversity we have in this area, we came up with a short list.”

While the 2020 Festival was cancelled due to the pandemic, World Arts West was far from dormant, launching new programs such as the Living Traditions online series. “I’m especially proud that we were able to expand our artist service programs at such a critical time to support and financially sustain the creative work of our community, in order to weather the pandemic,” said Anne Huang, Executive Director of World Arts West. “We have also diversified our board and staff to reflect the artist community we support.”

“Artists are fueled by creating art and being in community with one another, which is something they’ve been missing, and it’s gratifying to provide a new platform for our artists to do that through this film,” added Huang. “I’ve been so moved by the way the cultural artists have shown up for each other through this very challenging time, providing emotional, spiritual, and even financial support to one another. I’ve witnessed this care through the production of our film, even among our team, many of whom are artists themselves.”

The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Film is made possible in part thanks to partnerships with Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, Dance Mission Theater, Grace Cathedral, and Women’s Audio Mission.

2021 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Artists

Darius Simpson*

Spoken Word

Denmis Bain Savigne + Angel Yoel Mulen-Robert*

Rumba from Cuba

Eddie Madril

Native American Hoop Dance

Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco

Son Jarocho from Mexico

Hālau o Keikiali'i

Hula Kahiko from Hawaii

Lahydi Dance Collective*

Djun Djun & Dance from Guinea

Miriam Peretz

Dance inspired by Sufi poetry & devotional whirling from Iran & Turkey

Molodi*

US Stepping & Body Percussion

Mythili Kumar of Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose

Bharatanatyam from South India

*denotes artists new to the Festival

World Premiere works will be presented by Darius Simpson, Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco, Lahydi Dance Collective, and Mythili Kumar of Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose.

2021 SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL FILM SCHEDULE

INTERACTIVE ONLINE SCREENING AND EVENTS

Premiere of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Film

Thursday, October 7 at 7pm

Join the Festival artists for this special interactive online screening, during which they will introduce their segments of the film and share some thoughts about their work. Audience members will also have the opportunity to chat with the artists.

TICKETS: \$25

On sale now at worlddartswest.org or by phone at City Box Office: 415.392.4400

Your ticket also includes an Online Panel Discussion and Movement Workshop

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, October 5, at 7pm

The Music is the Dance: An exploration of the inextricable link between dance and music. In many traditions, there IS no distinction between them. With three of the artists appearing in the film: Jay R Beatbox (with Molodi), José Roberto Hernandez of Vinic-Kay (with Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco), and Kawika Alfiche (with Hālau o Keikiali'i).

Movement Workshop

Wednesday, October 6, at 7pm

Learn about Stepping and Body Percussion and their origins in Africa and evolution through African American fraternities in this interactive online workshop with Antwan Davis, Co-Founder of Molodi.

IN-PERSON SCREENINGS

NOTE: Proof of full Covid vaccination is required to attend the in-person film screenings, and masks that cover the nose and mouth will be required. There may be additional protocols in place, including capacity limits, depending on local health policies. Visit worldartswest.org for updates.

Saturday, October 9, at 3pm and 7 pm

Grand Lake Theatre | 3200 Grand Lake Avenue, Oakland

TICKETS:

\$15 in advance; \$16 at the door

\$12 for children aged 12 years and under for the 3pm matinee

On sale now at worldartswest.org or by phone at City Box Office: 415.392.4400

Saturday, October 16, at 3pm and 7pm

AMC Kabuki 8 | 1881 Post Street, San Francisco

TICKETS:

\$15 in advance; \$16 at the door

\$12 for children aged 12 years and under for the 3pm matinee

On sale now at worldartswest.org or by phone at City Box Office: 415.392.4400

ON DEMAND ONLINE

October 17 - 31

View the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Film online at your leisure, through October 31, 2021.

TICKETS:

\$15

On sale now at worldartswest.org or by phone at City Box Office: 415.392.4400

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Still photos from the film are available by request.

View the Festival Film trailer here: bit.ly/EDFFILM_21